



Helsinški odbor za ljudska
prava u Srbiji



AGENDA

Human Rights Defenders in the Western Balkans Region in the Context of the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Belgrade, November 16, 2015

Hotel Zira, Belgrade

Ruzveltova 35

The event aims to present the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders to relevant stakeholders in the Western Balkans and raise awareness about the need to protect human rights defenders. It will also provide a forum for the exchange of good practices and discussion on challenges human rights defenders face in their work, as well as the practical measures that can be taken to address those challenges.

Simultaneous English and Bosnian/ Croatian/ Montenegrin/ Serbian translation will be provided.

Participants – civil society organizations and human rights activists from: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo¹, Macedonia and Serbia.

9.00 – 9.30

Welcoming coffee, registration of participants

9.30 – 10.30

Opening remarks

Presentation of the OSCE/ODIHR Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders;
Implementation of the Guidelines in the Western Balkans region

Speakers:

Izabela Kisić, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

Jan Lueneburg, Head of Democratization Department, OSCE Mission in Serbia

Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, Head of Human Rights Department, ODIHR

Suzana Paunović, Office for Human and Minority Rights (tbc)

Key note speaker: Atilla Mraz, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

Note: Open for the media

¹ Under the UN Security Council Resolution 1244

10.30 – 12.00

Panel I: Challenges human rights defenders face in the Western Balkans; root causes, types of challenges and groups of defenders particularly at risk

Speakers:

Branko Todorović, Helsinki Committee RS, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Valon Ramadani, Center for Equality and Liberty, Kosovo

Sidita Zaja, Alliance against Discrimination of LGBT People, Albania

Milena Čalić-Jelić, Documenta, Croatia

Slavco Dimitrov, Coalition 'Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities', Macedonia

Moderator and rapporteur: Nedim Sejdinović, Independent Journalists' Association of Vojvodina, Serbia

12.00 – 12.30

Coffee break

12.30 – 14.00

Panel II: Enabling environment for the work of human rights defenders: relationship of law enforcement and judiciary with human rights defenders; freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly and association, and human rights education

Speakers:

Alma Mašić, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Milivoj Bešlin, historian, Serbia

Tea Gorjanc Prelević, Human Rights Action, Montenegro

Venera Čočaj, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Kosovo

Moderator: Katarina Golubović, YUCOM, Serbia

Rapporteur: Venera Čočaj, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Kosovo

14.00 – 15.00

Lunch break

15.00 – 16.30

Panel III: What can civil society do to promote enabling environment for human rights defenders and address challenges they face?

Speakers:

Uraniya Pirovska, Macedonian Helsinki Committee

Daliborka Uljarević, Centre for Civic Education, Montenegro

Ivan Novosel, Human Rights House, Croatia

Moderator: Milan Antonijević, YUCOM, Serbia

Rapporteur: Snježana Ivandić, Association for Democratic Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina

16.30 – 17.00

Coffee break

17.00 – 17.45

Conclusions and reports of the rapporteurs for panels I, II and III with recommendations

17.45 – 18.00

Closing remarks:

Katarzyna Jarosiewicz-Wargan, Head of Human Rights Department, ODHIR

Izabela Kisić, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia

18.30 Reception / Dinner

- ❖ The conference is organized with the support of OSCE Mission in Serbia